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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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DOCKETED BY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NOTICE OF
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
ARIZONA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND.

Docket No. RT 00000H-97-0137

RUCO'S COMMENTS

Pursuant to Mr. Steven Olea's letter of September 20, 2001, RUCO provides these comments and responses to various questions and issues regarding Article 12 of the Arizona Administrative Code – Arizona Universal Service Fund Rules.

General Comment

The issues raised in Mr. Olea's letter concerning the AUSF are certainly legitimate and important issues. However, it is premature to take a position on these issues at this time. The information and data necessary to render responsible and prudent decisions on these issues simply has not been compiled and analyzed as of yet. Any opinion that potentially could be expressed on these issues at this point in time, absent the pertinent data, would at best constitute a theoretical wish list. Without hard economic, demographic, fiscal, political, public opinion, and cost/benefit information and data the desirability and the feasibility of various alternatives cannot begin to be determined. Accordingly, the first order of business regarding these AUSF issues is to obtain the pertinent facts and data.

1 **Responses to Questions**

- 2 **1) Are there areas within the existing rules where revisions should be made?**
3 **If yes, please provide specific language recommendations and explain the**
4 **benefit of the recommended revision.**

5 Response: Any recommended revisions are discussed in the context RUCO's response to
6 the questions below.

- 7 **2) How might the AUSF rule be amended to ensure the availability of wire line**
8 **telephone service in the un-served areas (open territory)? Please provide**
9 **specific recommendations on issues such as required population density**
10 **before service must be provided, the method for determining the serving**
11 **carrier, procedural process, etc.**

12 Response: Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the State of Arizona is already
13 obligated to determine which carrier is best able to serve an un-served area and
14 to order that carrier to do so. Section 102 (a) (2) (B) of the Act states:

15 If no common carrier will provide the services that are supported by
16 Federal Universal Service support mechanisms under section
17 254(c) to an un-served community or any portion thereof that
18 requests such service, the Commission, with respect to interstate
19 services, or a State commission, with respect to intrastate services,
20 shall determine which common carrier or carriers are best able to
21 provide such service to the requesting un-served community or
22 portion thereof. Any carrier or carriers so ordered to provide such
23 service under this paragraph shall meet the requirements of
24 paragraph (1) and shall be designated as an eligible
 telecommunications carrier for that community or portion thereof.

 The above text is also included in the Code of Federal Regulations Section
 54.203.

 Federal law is clear on this issue -- the FCC and the ACC are required to order
 an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to serve un-served territories. However,

1 it should be noted that the FCC does not restrict Eligible Telecommunication
2 Carrier status merely to wire line providers, as does the Staff in this question.¹

3 **3) How might the AUSF rules be amended to increase the availability and**
4 **affordability of wire line telephone service in under-served areas? Under-**
5 **served areas are defined as areas within a wire carrier's service territory**
6 **where construction or line extension charges apply.**

7 Response: AUSF rules could be changed to include subsidization in part or whole of line
8 extensions to underserved areas. However, the desirability of such a change in
9 the rules would require certain pertinent information including:

- 10 a) The overall cost for such subsidization;
- 11 b) The individual cost impact on Arizona residents;
- 12 c) Economic need for subsidization;
- 13 d) Practicality and feasibility of establishing a mechanism that ensues
14 funds are directed where intended and accomplish what is
15 intended; and
- 16 e) Ratemaking and accounting ramifications of such subsidization.

17 **4) Under what circumstances, if any, could AUSF be made available to**
18 **carriers that do not have Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status?**

19 Response: None. The Code of Federal Regulations (Section 54.201) requires carriers to
20 have Eligible Communication Carrier status to be eligible for FUSF support. The
21 spirit and intent of the Act (to make available to all residents of the US a certain
22 minimal level of telephone service) will be circumvented if Arizona were to hold

23 ¹ 47 CFR 54.201(h) states "A state Commission shall designate a common carrier ... as an Eligible
24 Telecommunications Carrier irrespective of the technology used by such carriers."

1 its telecommunications providers to a lesser standard. It would encourage the
2 provision of substandard basic telephone service through subsidization.

3 **5) Should the definition of local exchange service, for AUSF, purposes be**
4 **broadened to include other services? If yes, how might it be**
5 **accomplished?**

6 Response: Absent certain pertinent information, a responsible opinion cannot be formed on
7 this question. At minimum the following information would be necessary:

- 8 a) Total statewide cost of broadening the definition of local exchange
9 services;
- 10 b) The individual cost impact on Arizona residents;
- 11 c) Economic need for subsidization;
- 12 d) Practicality and feasibility of establishing a mechanism that ensures
13 funds are directed where intended and accomplish what is
14 intended; and
- 15 e) Ratemaking and accounting ramifications of such subsidization.

16 **6) Are there USF rules in other states that should be adopted in Arizona? If**
17 **yes, please provide the specific language for each rule and explain the**
18 **benefit that would be derived by adopting the rule in Arizona.**

19 Response: The provisions adopted by other states for their USF support are varied. It would
20 be impossible if not irresponsible to render an opinion on the adoption of other
21 states' USF rules without, at minimum, the following information:

- 22 a) Total statewide cost of adoption of additional USF;
- 23 b) The individual cost impact on Arizona residents;
- 24 c) Economic need for subsidization;

1 d) Practicality and feasibility of establishing a mechanism that ensues
2 funds are directed where intended and accomplish what is
3 intended; and

4 e) Ratemaking and accounting ramifications of such subsidization

5 7) How might construction or line extension tariffs be standardized between
6 companies? Should there be an AUSF contribution in addition to the
7 company contribution? Should there be a maximum amount a customer
8 should be expected to pay to obtain service? Should this amount consider
9 the median household income of the area being served? Assuming there
10 is an AUSF contribution, what is a reasonable limit?

11 Response: See response to item 3)

12 8) Are there any changes in the Federal USF rules of which Staff should be
13 aware? If yes, please identify them. How do these changes impact current
14 AUSF rules? How might they impact recommended revisions to the
15 existing rules?

16 Response: See Attachment A

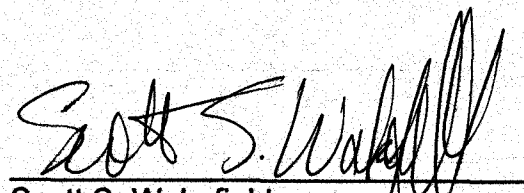
17 9) Are there changes in other Federal rules that might impact current or future
18 AUSF rules? If yes, please identify them and their potential impact.

19 Response: See Attachment A

20 10) For all other comments please provide a narrative fully explaining the issue
21 being discussed, any recommendation and the benefit to be gained if the
22 recommendation is adopted.

23 Response: See General Comment above

24 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 2nd day of November, 2001.


Scott S. Wakefield
Chief Counsel

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3 of November, 2001 with:

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Increasing Telephone Service in Indian CountryThe FCC's Universal Service Programs for Rural Health CareThe FCC's Access Charges and Universal Service Reform

For other FCC Consumer Information Fact Sheets [\[click here\]](#)

Universal Service Headlines

October 2001

- Public Notice. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Review of Lifeline and Link-Up Service For All Low-Income Consumers. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/11/01) FCC 01-J-2 [[Acrobat](#)] [[Text](#)]
- Order. The Commission released an Order appointing the Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, to serve as Commissioner on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. (Dkt No. 96-45, Released 10/5/01). FCC 01-281. [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- Order. The Federal Communications Commission released an Order that finds that the FCC, not the South Dakota PUC, has jurisdiction to designate Western Wireless an ETC for service to tribal members on the Pine Ridge Reservation. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/5/01) FCC 01-284 [[Acrobat](#)] [[Text](#)]
- Order. The Federal Communications Commission released an Order that designates Western Wireless as an ETC for service to tribal members on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/5/01) FCC 01-283 [[Acrobat](#)] [[Text](#)]

September 2001

- Public Notice. The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on updating line counts and other limited information used in calculating high-cost universal service support for non-rural carriers for 2002. Comment Date: 15 days from publication in the Federal Register. Reply Comment Date: 21 days from publication in the Federal Register (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 9/11/01) DA 01-2107 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- Public Notice. The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice seeking nominations for seven Board member positions on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company. All nominations must be filed with the the Federal Communications Commission's Office of the Secretary by October 4, 2001. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, 97-21, Released 9/4/01) DA No. 01-2078. [[Word](#)]

August 2001

- Notice: The Federal Communications Commission initiated its third inquiry under section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into whether "advanced telecommunications capability" is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. Comments Due: 30 days after publication in Federal Register. Reply Comments Due: 45 days after publication in Federal Register. (Dkt No 96-45, FCC No. 01-223, released 8/10/01) [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

July 2001

- Order. The Commission released an Order appointing the Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, the Honorable Kevin J. Martin, the Honorable Lila A. Jaber, Commissioner of the Florida Public Service Commission, and the Honorable Thomas J. Dunleavy to serve on the Joint Board on Universal Service. (Dkt No. 96-45, Released 7/12/01) FCC 01-202 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- Order. The Commission released an Order appointing the Honorable Kevin J. Martin and the Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, to serve on the Federal-State Joint Board on Separations. (Dkt No. 96-45, Released 7/12/01) FCC 01-203 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- Public Notice. The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice asking parties to refresh the record regarding Reconsideration of Rules adopted in the 1997 Universal Service Report and Order. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 7/11/01) DA No. 01-1647. [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

June 2001

- Order. The Commission released the attached Report and Order that will provide additional time for recipients under the schools and libraries

universal service support mechanism to implement contracts with service providers for non-recurring services. Also, the Commission decided to not revise the Commission's rules of priority for Funding Year 4 of the schools and libraries program. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, (Dkt No. 96-45, Released 6/29/01) FCC 01-196 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

- **Public Notice.** The Common Carrier Bureau released Public Notice seeking comment on translation of the cost model from Turbo-Pascal computer language to Delphi computer language and announces posting of updated Turbo-Pascal version of the cost model. Comments Due: 45 days from publication in Federal Register. Reply Comments Due: 60 days from publication in Federal Register. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 6/20/01) DA No. 01-1458. [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

May 2001

- **Order.** The Commission released an Order, consistent with the recommendation of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service that modifies the rules for providing high-cost universal service support to rural telephone companies for the next five years based upon the proposals made by the Rural Task Force (Dkt Nos. 96-45, 00-256, Released 5/23/01) FCC 01-157 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.** The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on how to streamline and simplify both the manner in which the Commission assesses carrier contributions to the universal service fund and the manner in which carriers may recover those costs from their customers. (Dkt Nos. 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, Released 5/8/01) FCC 01-145 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

April 2001

- **Public Notice.** The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice that establishes a pleading cycle for three petitions for reconsideration requesting the carryover of unused funds in the federal universal service support mechanism for schools and libraries. Comment Date: April 26, 2001. Reply Comment Date: May 3, 2001 (Dkt No 96-45) DA 01-975 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] 4/19/01
- **Order.** The Commission released a Report and Order, that adopts the rules proposed in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice), to implement the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CC Docket No 96-45, FCC 01-120 corrected version: [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] 4/5/01 corrected version released 4/19/01.

March 2001

- **Public Notice.** The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has filed a request for, among other things, expanded universal service support for low-income consumers in the Commonwealth, similar to the measures adopted in the Commission's Tribal Order for low-income subscribers living on tribal lands. Release Date: March 14, 2001, Comment Date: April 13, 2001, Reply Comment Date: April 30, 2001 (Dkt No 96-45). DA 01-622 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] 3/14/01
- **Order.** The Commission released an order modifying the existing contribution methodology to reduce the interval between the accrual of revenues and the assessment of universal service contributions based on those revenues. Currently, contributions are based on carriers' revenues from the prior year. This modification shortened the interval between the accrual of revenues and assessment based on those revenues by six months. CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 01-85 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] [[Text Attachment A: FCC Form 499-Q](#)] [[Word Attachment A: FCC Form 499-Q](#)]

February 2001

- **Order.** Common Carrier Bureau releases Order Extending USAC's Draft Audit Report Due Date. Grants limited, 45-day extension of the deadline for USAC's independent auditor to file its draft audit report with the Commission. Commission rules require the draft audit to be filed by March 1, but USAC does not close its annual books until early February, leaving the auditor with insufficient time to complete the audit by March 1. Thus, a limited extension is warranted and does not impair the Commission's oversight of USAC. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 2/27/01) DA 01-509 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- **Public Notice.** Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Nomination for Board Member Position Representing Low-Income Consumers on Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors: On January 23, 2001, the USAC Board member representing low-income consumers (John Butler) resigned from the Board. This PN seeks a nomination to fill the vacancy. (CC Dkt. No. 96-45) DA 01-370 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] 2/14/01
- **Order.** The Commission denies the petition of Onco Communications, Inc. to forbear from enforcement of the Commission's rules requiring that contributions to the Federal Universal Service support mechanisms be based on carrier revenue from the prior year. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 2/13/01) FCC 01-51 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- **Public Notice.** The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice announcing comment and reply comment dates relating to Western Wireless' Petition for Designation as an eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Comment Date: March 12, 2001. Reply Comment Date: March 26, 2001. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 2/13/01) DA No. 01-384 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- **Public Notice.** The Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on Moultrie Independent Telephone Company's Request for Clarification of the Affiliate Sale/Lease-back Rules under Part 36 of the Commission's Rules. Comments Due: February 16, 2001. Reply Comments Due: February 26, 2001. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 2/2/01) DA No. 01-267 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

January 2001

- **Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.** The Commission released the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking comment on implementation of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Comment Due: February 15, 2001 and Reply Comments Due: February 22, 2001. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 1/23/01) FCC 01-31 [[Word](#)] The "Children's Internet Protection Act". On December 21, 2000, the President signed into law the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), included as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, Pub. L. 106-554. CIPA provides that in order to be eligible for E-rate funding under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, schools and libraries that have computers with Internet access must have in place certain Internet safety policies. Recipients must adopt and implement an Internet safety policy that includes the operation of a technology prevention measure, protecting against Internet access for both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, and, with respect to use of the computers by minors, harmful to minors. Schools (but not libraries) must also certify that their policy includes monitoring the online activities of minors.
- **Order.** Common Carrier Bureau releases Order granting the requests from Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc. (Mescalero), GTE Southwest Incorporated (GTE), and Valor Telecommunications of New Mexico, LLC (Valor), for a waiver of the definition of "study area" contained in the Part 36 Appendix-Glossary of the Commission's rules. This waiver will permit US Valor to alter the boundaries of a New Mexico study area it has acquired from GTE so that it can transfer to Mescalero approximately 950 access lines currently served by the Mescalero, Alto, and Ruidoso, New Mexico exchanges. This waiver also will permit Mescalero to establish a new study area in New Mexico for the approximately 950 access lines it intends to acquire from Valor. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 1/18/01) DA No. 01-129 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Order.** The Commission releases Order granting the request from Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc., Petition for a waiver of Section 54.305 of the Commission's Rules. This waiver will enable Mescalero to receive increased high-cost support based on its costs and fulfill its commitment to bring basic service to all unserved residences on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in its first two years of operation, as well as permit Mescalero to expand service in underserved areas of the Reservation. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 1/18/01) FCC No. 01-13. [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.** The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on a Petition submitted by the Multi-Association Group (MAG), which sets forth a comprehensive plan for interstate access and universal service support reform for incumbent local exchange carriers subject to rate-of-return regulation. (CC Docket No. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77 and 98-166) FCC 00-448 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.** Commission releases Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Recommended Decision concerning the Rural Task Force plan for reforming the high-cost loop support mechanism for rural carriers. Comment Date: 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Reply Comment Date: 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 1/12/01) [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

December 2000

- **Order.** Bell Atlantic-PA Lifeline Database Order: The order waives the requirement in the Commission's Lifeline eligibility rules that Bell Atlantic-PA (now Verizon) obtain signed certifications of eligibility from qualifying low-income consumers. Instead, the order allows Bell Atlantic-PA to rely on a Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare database to verify the eligibility of low-income consumers, thereby reducing burdens on consumers and Bell Atlantic. (CC Dkt. No. 96-45 DA 00-2899) [[Text](#) | [Word](#)] 12/27/00
- **Recommended Decision.** The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service adopted and released the attached Recommended Decision recommending that the Commission use the Rural Task Force's Recommendation regarding reforms to rural high-cost universal service support mechanisms as a foundation for implementing a rural universal service plan. *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, (CC Docket No. 96-45, Recommended Decision, FCC 00J-4) (rel. Dec. 22, 2000). [Word](#) [Appendix](#)
- **Public Notice.** Common Carrier Bureau releases Public Notice announcing the proposed universal service contribution factor for the first quarter of 2001. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 12/8/00) DA 00-2764. [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

November 2000

- **Order.** Common Carrier Bureau releases Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) Change Appeals Submitted by Eligible Schools and Libraries (Copan Remand Order). In this order, CCB remanded to USAC 31 schools and libraries appeals concerning Service Provider change requests and directs USAC to resolve the appeals in keeping with the Commission's March 18, 2000 Copan Order. In the Copan Order, the Commission broadened the categories for acceptable service provider identification number (SPIN) changes so that SPIN changes are now permitted whenever an applicant certifies that (1) the SPIN change is allowed under its state and local procurement rules and under the terms of the contract between the applicant and its original service provider, and (2) the applicant has notified its original service provider of its intent to change service providers. Under the previous SLD SPIN change guidelines, SPIN changes were permitted only where the service provider: (1) refuses to participate; (2), has gone out of business; or (3) has breached its contract. This remand allows SLD to decide the SPIN change requests based on the guidance in the Copan Order. (CC Docket No. 96-45) [[DA 00-2629: Text](#) | [Word](#)] 11/21/00
- **Public Notice.** The Joint Board on Universal Service released a public notice on November 3, 2000, announcing that it will convene an en banc hearing on November 13, 2000, in San Diego, California, to discuss the Rural Task Force's recommendation regarding reform of the universal service support mechanism for rural carriers. CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC-00J-4 [[Word](#)] [[Agenda](#)]
- **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to Hold a Meeting** November 23, 1998, to Make its Recommendation on Referred Issues (CC Docket 96-45). 11/17/98

October 2000

- **Public Notice.** Common Carrier Bureau seeks comment on Western Wireless' supplemental filing relating to its petition for designation as an

eligible telecommunications carrier on the Crow Reservation in Montana. Comment Date: 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Reply Comment Date: 45 days after publication in the Federal Register (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/13/00), DA 00-2327 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

- **Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.** The Commission released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, which seeks comment on proposals to modify the Commission's rules relating to contributions to the federal universal service support mechanisms. The Further Notice seeks comment on whether the existing methodology provides or will provide a competitive advantage to certain carriers in the marketplace. The Further Notice also seeks comment on the advantages and disadvantages of two proposed alternatives to the existing assessment methodology. In addition, the Further Notice seeks comment suggesting improvements to these two proposals, as well as comment suggesting other proposed methodologies for assessing universal service contributions. Finally, the companion Order extends until February 20, 2001 the date on which the forbearance petition filed November 22, 1999 by Oncor Communications, Inc. shall be deemed granted in the absence of a Commission decision to the contrary. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/12/00), FCC 00-359 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

September 2000

- **Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn New York; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Order,** (CC Dockets No. 96-45, 97-21, Released 9/26/00), FCC 00-354 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas.** The errata deletes language in paragraphs 7 and 41 of the order requiring the Commission to obtain approvals from the Office of Management and Budget prior to imposing modified reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements or burdens on the public, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 10/20/00), Errata DA 00-2128 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

Corrected version. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas. The order stays a portion of the Commission's June 2000 tribal order regarding enhanced Lifeline and Linkup support for qualifying consumers in areas "near reservations." It does not affect those programs for qualifying consumers "on reservations." In addition, carriers are currently scheduled to file information on September 1 in order to receive enhanced Lifeline and Linkup support. The order would extend that date to September 22. The further notice seeks additional comment on how to extend the enhanced Lifeline and Link Up measures to qualifying low-income consumers living in areas or communities that are "near reservations." (Dkt No. CC-96-45, Released 8/31/2000), FCC 00-332 Corrected Version [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

- **Common Carrier Bureau partially denies 4 price cap LECs' requests for confidential treatment of line count data submitted under the rules for the interstate access universal service support mechanism.** Denies the confidentiality requests only to the extent necessary to enable the Universal Service Administrative Company to comply with Commission rules requiring it to publish statewide and per-line interstate access universal service support levels. (CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 99-249, 96-45, Released 9/20/00), DA 00-2132 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Common Carrier Bureau releases order that protects the confidentiality of price cap LEC line counts that cannot be determined when the Universal Service Administrative Company publishes statewide and per-line interstate access universal service support levels.** (CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 99-249, 96-45, Released 9/20/00), DA 00-2133 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **The Commission released the attached order, which appoints Nanette Thompson to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.** (CC Docket No. 96-45, Released 9/1/00) FCC 00-334 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

August 2000

- **Common Carrier Bureau extends pleading cycle for comment on updating line counts for calculating high-cost universal service support for non-rural carriers for the year 2001.** Comments due August 30, 2000 and reply comments due September 6, 2000 (Dkt No. CC-96-45, DA No. 00-1825, Released 8/10/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities seeks retroactive Universal Services support on behalf of Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Inc. and United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc.** Comments due August 23, 2000, and reply comments due September 4, 2000. (DA No. 00-1807). Dkt No.: CC-96-45. [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Commission releases a Declaratory Ruling providing guidance regarding whether section 214(e) of the Act requires a common carrier to provide supported services throughout a service area prior to being designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier.** (CC Docket No. 96-45, Released 8/10/00) FCC 00-248. [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Common Carrier Bureau releases Public Notice that extends the pleading cycle for the tribal areas Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** (CC Dkt. No. 96-45, Released 8/4/00) DA 00-1783 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Common Carrier Bureau releases list of carriers filing rural certification letters and notifications of changes in status.** (Dkt No.: CC-96-45, DA No.: 00-1705, Released 8/1/00) [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

July 2000

- **Common Carrier Bureau seeks comment on updating line counts for calculating high-cost universal service support for non-rural carriers for the year 2001.** Comments due August 8, 2000 and reply comments due August 15, 2000 (Dkt No. CC-96-45, DA No. 00-1826, Released 7/24/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- **Common Carrier Bureau releases Public Notice seeking comment on the Universal Service Joint Board's Recommended Decision on phasing down interim hold-harmless support.** Comment Date: August 14, 2000 Reply Comment Date: August 28, 2000 (CC Dkt. No. 96-45, Released 7/11/2000) DA 00-1536 : [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

June 2000

- Commission adopts measures to: (1) promote telecommunications subscribership and infrastructure deployment within American Indian and Alaska Native tribal communities; (2) establish a framework for the resolution of eligible telecommunications carrier designation requests; and (3) apply the framework to pending petitions for designation as eligible telecommunications carriers. (CC Dkt. No. 96-45, Adopted 6/8/2000, Released 6/30/2000) [[FCC 00-208: Acrobat](#) | [Text](#) | [Word](#)] 7/12/2000
- Bureau releases erratum which corrects the First Order on Reconsideration in the Slamming Proceeding. (CC Docket No. 94-129, Rel. 6/14/2000) Erratum: DA No. 00-1306 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)], Order: FCC No. 00-135 [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]

May 2000

- Commission releases the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Service (CALLS) Order. In this Order the Commission adopts an integrated interstate access reform and universal service proposal put forth by the members of the . This action provides many benefits. It will bring lower rates and less confusion to consumers; and create a more rational interstate rate structure. This, in turn, will support more efficient competition, more certainty for the industry, and permit more rational investment decisions. CALLS Order: (CC Docket No. 94-129, Rel. 5/31/2000) FCC 00-193 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]
- Public Notice released in which the Bureau seeks comment on whether line count data for wire centers not receiving high-cost universal service support should be afforded confidential treatment. Previously, the Commission denied, to a limited extent, requests for confidential treatment of quarterly line count data at the wire center level for those wire centers receiving support. DA 00-068 (released May 12, 2000) [Text](#) | [Word](#)
- Bureau waives deadline for the implementation of nonrecurring services for all schools and libraries receiving support in Year Two of the program. (CC Docket No. 96-45) [DA 00-1003: (released May 5, 2000) [Text](#) | [Word](#)]

April 2000

- Commission clarifies how quarterly line count data will be incorporated in the new high-cost universal service support mechanism. CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 00-126 (Released 4/7/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- Commission denies to a limited requests for confidential treatment of wire center line count data in wire centers receiving high-cost universal service support, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 00-125 (Released 4/7/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- Common Carrier Bureau releases Interim Protective Order to facilitate review of wire center line count data. CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 00-773, (released 4/7/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- Common Carrier Bureau releases estimated state-by-state universal service high-cost support amounts for non-rural carriers. CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 00-774, (released 4/7/00). [[Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- Public Notice seeking nomination to replace Wayne M. Rehberger, who resigned from the USAC Board of Directors as the representative of interexchange carriers with more than \$3 billion in annual operating revenue. DA 00-688 (released April 4, 2000), [Text](#)

March 2000

- FCC grants a waiver of the Commission's consortia rules to the State of Washington Department of Information Services. FCC also denies Washington DIS's petition for reconsideration of Commission's consortia rules. CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, FCC 00-113 (rel. March 27, 2000), [Text](#)

January 2000

- Common Carrier Bureau denies AT&T Request to Revise First Quarter 2000 Contribution Factor, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, DA 00-56 (rel. January 13, 2000) [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)]

December 1999

- Common Carrier Bureau seeks comment on requests to redefine "Voice Grade Access" for purposes of Federal Universal Service support. (DA 99-2985) [[Text](#)] 12/22/99
- Commission postpones targeting of high-cost universal service support, Nineteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth, FCC 99-396 [[Word](#)] [[Text](#)]

November 1999

- Commission releases an order adopting input values for the forward-looking high-cost model, cc Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, FCC 99-304 with appendices [[ZIP](#)] 11/2/99
- Commission releases an order implementing a new forward-looking high-cost support mechanism for non-rural carriers, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 99-306 [[Text](#)] [[WP51](#)] 11/2/99
- Common Carrier Bureau releases state-by-state universal service high-cost support amounts for non-rural carriers and forward-looking cost model results, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, DA 99-2399 [[Text](#)] [[Word](#)] [Support Spreadsheet](#) [[Excel](#)] 11/2/99
- For information on running the high-cost model and model results [[click here](#)] 11/2/99
- Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on Joint Submission of Program Administrators Regarding Consolidated Data Collection Procedures & Cost Allocation Methods, CC Docket No. 98-171, DA 99-2334 [Text](#) [WordPerfect](#)
- Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service seeks comment on phasing out the interim hold-harmless provision of the Commission's forward-looking high-cost support mechanism, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice. [FCC 990j2: [Text](#) | [Word](#)]
- Sixth Order on Reconsideration (CC Docket No. 97-21) and Fifteenth Order on Reconsideration (CC Docket No. 96-45). This Order reconsiders many of the Commission's conclusions in the Universal Service Order to simplify the process for rural health care providers to receive support from the universal service support mechanism. [[Text](#) [Word](#)]
- Fourteenth Order on Reconsideration concludes that all telecommunications carriers that provide supported services to eligible rural health care providers at a discount, are entitled to have the total amount of the discount treated as a contribution to the universal service fund. CC Docket No. 96-45 (ETC Order), FCC 99-256. [[Text](#) [WordPerfect](#)] 11/3/99

October 1999

- Commission releases order denying petitions for waiver and/or reconsideration of the universal service contribution methodology. (CC Docket No. 96-45) [FCC 99-280: [WordPerfect](#) | [Text](#)] 10/14/1999
- Commission releases order amending universal service rules in response to decision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel v. FCC. (CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262) [FCC 99-290: [WordPerfect](#) | [Text](#) | [Appendix C: WordPerfect](#) | [Text](#) | [Appendix D: WordPerfect](#) | [Text](#) | News Release: [Word97](#) | Erratum: [WordPerfect](#) | [Text](#)] 10/21/1999
- Proposed Fourth quarter 1999 Universal Service contribution factor for November and December 1999, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 99-2109 [[Text](#) [WordPerfect](#)]

September 1999

- Commission adopts Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Promoting Deployment and Subscriberhip in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas. [News Release: [Text](#) | [Word97](#) FCC 99-204: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Acrobat - Includes Appendix E](#)] 9/15/1999
- CCB agrees with Washington Commission's proposed service area designation, and grants the requested waiver to permit the disaggregation of federal high cost support currently given at the study area level. (CC Dkt. No. 96-45) [DA 99-1844: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#)] 9/15/1999

[More...](#)

August 1999

- Commission grants and denies, in part, requests for review filed by the Tennessee DOE and Education Networks of America (ENA) regarding discounts on Internet access service. (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-21) [FCC 99-216: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Pleadings List: Word](#) | [Acrobat](#)] 8/13/99

July 1999

- Line count information from non-rural local exchange carriers and holding companies requested to estimate high cost support. (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-160) [DA 99-1406: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Attachment: Excel](#)] 7/22/99
- Common Carrier Bureau Releases Revised Spreadsheet for Estimating Universal Service Support Using Proposed Input Values in the Forward-Looking Cost Model. (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-160) [DA 99-1322: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#)] 7/2/99

June 1999

- Comment Date and Reply Comment Date Extended for Universal Service High-Cost Methodology Order and Inputs Further Notice. The new Comment Date is July 23, 1999, and the New Reply Comment Date is August 6, 1999. (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-160, 96-282) [DA 99-1277: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#)] 6/30/99

- Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on Letter Filed by Department of Commerce Regarding Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism. (CC Dkt. No. 96-45). [DA 99-1212: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#)] 6/28/99
- Common Carrier Bureau Releases Preliminary Results Using Proposed Input Values in the Forward-Looking Cost Model for Universal Service (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-160). [Public Notice: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | Density Workbook: [Excel](#) | Wirecenter Workbook: [Excel](#) | Results Zip File (206 MB): [Zip](#) | Workfiles Zip File (107 MB): [Zip](#)] 6/16/99
- Commission Prioritizes Funding for Schools and Libraries Based Upon Discount Levels (CC Dkt. Nos. 96-45, 97-160). [FCC 99-49: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#)] 6/8/99

May 1999

- Commission Establishes Year 2 Funding Levels for the Schools, Libraries, and Rural Health Care Federal Universal Service Support Mechanism (CC Dkt 96-45). [FCC 99-121: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Acrobat](#)] 5/27/99
- Commission Releases Order and Further Notice on High Cost Support Mechanism; [FCC 99-119: [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Acrobat](#)] and Further Notice on Cost Model Inputs, [FCC 99-120 (without appendices): [Text](#) | [WordPerfect](#) | [Acrobat](#)] [FCC 99-120 (including appendices): [Zipped file containing WordPerfect, Word97, & Excel files, 531 KB](#)] 5/27/99

Updated 10/9/01
